



Colour, Shape and Texture

Year 2

This unit builds on the previous unit, studying colour and shape together for three lessons, looking in detail at the late work of Matisse. By looking at Matisse's cut-outs the children revise what they have already learnt about shape and colour, are introduced to the use of colours that are complementary to each other and to the idea of composition (how different ingredients in art, like shape and colour are combined to create a design). Detailed study of these works also allows the children to think about how an artist works, looking at videos and photographs of Matisse. They make their own collages with colourful paper to experiment with compositions using organic shapes and complementary colours. Visual texture (how an artist shows how something feels) is studied for three lessons, looking at the Durer's Young Hare and Jan van Eyck's Arnolfini Portrait. Through study of these paintings, and exploration by drawing clothes of differing textures with mixed media the children learn how an artist uses different colours and different marks to create visual texture. More in depth study of the Arnolfini Portrait shows the children how a work of art can tell us things about the past, how a portrait can communicate things about the people in it, and how a painter can show things about themselves in a work of art. This revisits ideas first raised in the unit on Paintings of Children in year 1 and looks forward to the next unit where portraits are studied in detail.